

More specifically, as recited in claim 1, the pivot axis extends perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the squeegee and forms an acute angle of approximately 30 to 60° with a longitudinal direction of the handle; a geometric line of intersection of a common pivoting plane of the mount and the handle with a surface to be cleaned is located below the squeegee with respect to a downward pulling direction of the cleaning device; and the mount and the handle are adjustably connected by a screw connection to achieve desired clamping.

As described in detail in the Amendment filed March 5, 2003, these claimed structural features enable good lateral pivoting of the handle relative to the mount to be achieved while at the same time "displacement" of the handle in the direction of the surface to be cleaned can be kept to a minimum, and the squeegee "lags behind" the pivoting plane so as to improve the stability of the position of the mount.

In other words, the pivotable connection between the handle and the mount in the cleaning device of the claimed present invention enables an operator to perform cleaning of lateral surface areas in stable S-shaped wiping motions.

Bowen, by contrast, merely discloses a well known cleaning implement comprising a handle and a mount (i.e., brush bar 9) that is rigidly connected to the handle. Namely, as disclosed at page 1, lines 73-80 of Bowen, "pin 8 being in register with one of the small holes 15, upon tightening nut 24 the brush bar [9]

is rigidly clamped to the bracket [4]. It will further be noticed that the engagement of pin 8 and slot 15 serve to take up all torsion or side thrust and effectually prevent rotation of the brush bar on the bracket."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the mount (i.e., brush bar 9) in Bown is not even pivotably connected to the handle. Indeed, there is no pivot axis in Bowen and the cleaning device of Bowen cannot perform cleaning in S-shaped wiping motions.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Bowen does not at all disclose, teach or even remotely suggest the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the claimed present invention as recited in claim 1.

Although simply in structure, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention patentably distinguishes over all of the prior art references of record, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Response, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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